aspects of public expenditure and policy. The Tenth Plan has initiated action in tying up the concept of Women's Component Plan and gender budgeting exercise to develop gender perspective in planning. The efforts and progress India has achieved with respect to the critical areas on concerns identified by the Beijing Conference is given in the **Platform for Action 10 years after India Country Report,** available in departmental website http://www.wcd.nic.in.

Financial assistance for Mid-Day Meal Scheme

490. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to enhance financial assistance to the State Governments for Mid-Day Meal Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when it is expected to be provided; and

(c) the financial assistance to be provided to the most populous State of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Enhancement in existing financial assistance to State Governments under Mid-Day Meal Scheme is contingent upon availability of adequate resources. Planning Commission has been approached for a higher outlay for 2006-07.

Absence of school teachers

491. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint survey by Harvard University and World Bank had shown that 25 per cent primary Government school teachers in the country remain absent everyday; and

(b) if so, whether the survey had further shown that 49.5 per cent of them stay away from their classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) A